

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising
  - a) a hydrophobically modified polyacetal-polyether or comb
  - 5 hydrophobically modified polyacetal-polyether and
  - b) a viscosity suppressing agent selected from the group consisting of cyclodextrins and derivatives thereof.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the cyclodextrins are selected  
10 from the group consisting of alpha ( $\alpha$ ), beta ( $\beta$ ), and gamma ( $\gamma$ ) cyclodextrins.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the cyclodextrin derivatives are selected from the group consisting of methylated, hydroxyethylated, hydroxypropylated, carboxymethylated, and diaminoethylated cyclodextrins  
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4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lower limit of the hydrophobe types has 8 carbons.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lower limit of the  
20 hydrophobe types has 10 carbons.
6. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lower limit of the hydrophobe types has 12 carbons.
7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the upper limit of the  
25 hydrophobe types has 40 carbons.
8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the upper limit of the hydrophobe types has 28 carbons.  
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9. The composition of claim 1, wherein the upper limit of the hydrophobe types has 18 carbons.

10. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lower limit of the solids content of the polymer is 3 wt. %.

5 11. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lower limit of the solids content of the polymer is 7 wt %.

12. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lower limit of the solids content of the polymer is 10 wt %.

10 13. The composition of claim 1, wherein the upper limit of the solids content of the polymer is 35 wt %.

14. The composition of claim 1, wherein the upper limit of the solids content of the polymer is 25 wt %.

15 15. The composition of claim 1, wherein the upper limit of the solids content of the polymer is 20 wt %.

20 16. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lower limit of the cyclodextrin content is 0.2 wt %.

17. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lower limit of the cyclodextrin content is 0.5 wt %.

25 18. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lower limit of the cyclodextrin content is 0.7 wt %.

19. The composition of claim 1, wherein the upper limit of the cyclodextrin content is 7.0 wt %.

30 20. The composition of claim 1, wherein the upper limit of the cyclodextrin content is 3.0 wt %.

21. The composition of claim 1, wherein the upper limit of the cyclodextrin content is 1.5 wt %.

22. The composition of claim 1, wherein the solids content of the polymer is 20 wt % and the cyclodextrin content is 1.0 wt %.

23. The composition of claim 1, wherein the solids content of the polymer is 17 wt % and the cyclodextrin content is 3.0 wt %.

24. A process for preparing the composition of claim 1 comprising dry blending a hydrophobically modified polyacetal-polyether (HM-PAPE) or comb hydrophobically modified polyacetal-polyether (comb HM-PAPE) with a cyclodextrin.

25. The process of claim 24, wherein the blend of dry HM-PAPE or comb HM-PAPE and the cyclodextrin is heated to fuse the materials together to form a solid mass.

26. The process of claim 24, wherein the cyclodextrin is selected from the group consisting of alpha ( $\alpha$ ), beta ( $\beta$ ), and gamma ( $\gamma$ ) cyclodextrins and mixtures thereof.

27. The process of claim 26, wherein the viscosity suppressing agent is selected from the group consisting of methylated, hydroxyethylated, hydroxypropylated, carboxymethylated, and diaminoethylated cyclodextrins and mixtures thereof.

28. A method for improving the incorporation of a thickener of a hydrophobically modified polyacetal-polyether (HM-PAPE) or comb hydrophobically modified polyacetal-polyether (comb HM-PAPE) into an aqueous system containing a water-insoluble polymer comprising

a) admixing a cyclodextrin or cyclodextrin derivative with said thickener in a sufficient amount to effectively complex the thickener so as to keep the

viscosity of the admixture in abeyance,

b) adding said complexed admixture to said aqueous system containing said water-insoluble polymer, and

5 c) adding or providing to said aqueous system containing said complexed admixture and said water-insoluble polymer system an effective amount of a compound having an affinity for the cyclodextrin to decomplex the cyclodextrin from the thickener to increase the viscosity of the system.

10 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the cyclodextrin is selected from the group consisting of alpha ( $\alpha$ ), beta ( $\beta$ ), and gamma ( $\gamma$ ) cyclodextrins and mixtures thereof.

15 30. The process of claim 29, wherein the cyclodextrin is selected from the group consisting of methylated, hydroxyethylated, hydroxypropylated, carboxymethylated, and diaminoethylated cyclodextrins and mixtures thereof.

31. A paint composition comprising a latex and the composition of claim 1.

20 32. The paint composition of claim 31, wherein the pigment volume concentration (PVC) has a lower limit of about 15 %.

25 33. The paint composition of claim 31, wherein the pigment volume concentration (PVC) has a lower limit of about 24 %.

34. The paint composition of claim 31, wherein the pigment volume concentration (PVC) has a lower limit of about 35 %.

30 35. The paint composition of claim 31, wherein the pigment volume concentration (PVC) has an upper limit of about 85 %.

36. The paint composition of claim 31, wherein the pigment volume concentration (PVC) has an upper limit of about 65 %.